



January 2007

Transforming 2.7 Derelict Acres into Nino Scarito Park



Lawrence, MA (October 5, 2006) - The City of Lawrence celebrated the opening of Nina Scarito Park as the first jewel in the Spicket River Greenway. It is the result of hope, hard work, and a whole community working together to transform a vacant, contaminated piece of riverfront property into a legacy for the next generation, a place to play, relax, garden, explore, and rediscover the wonders of the natural world.

This 2.7- acre industrial site was abandoned from the late 1980's until 2001, when a neighborhood planning process, led by Groundwork Lawrence and Lawrence Community Works, identified the brownfield site as a key to neighborhood revitalization.

GW Lawrence is a member of the Groundwork USA Initiative of the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program, which builds the capacity of urban communities to improve their environment for conservation, recreation and economic development. GW Lawrence catalyzed and managed the project, coordinating hundreds of people and public agencies in making decisions and solving problems to move the project forward. Nearly \$2.9 million was leveraged from federal, state, city and private sources to clean the site, resolve property liens, and build the vibrant park. For more information, please contact Douglas Evans, Manager of the Groundwork USA Initiative for NPS at douglas_evans@nps.gov or 617- 223- 5124.

Community Gains 26 Acres and a Critical Citywide Trail System Link

Orlando, FL (November 15, 2006) – The only remaining green space in one Orlando neighborhood (see photo), now has a new lease on life. Thanks to the National Park Service Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) program, this 26.36- acre green space has been transferred, at no cost, to the city of Orlando for public park and recreation use.



Valued at over \$6 million, the former military property will help Orlando provide a continuous trail corridor between the Cady Way Trail and Downtown. Identified by Orlando as a critical link in its Bicycle Facilities Master Plan, the corridor will be developed as a walking and bicycling trail. The property will also feature a neighborhood playground and permanently protected wetlands habitat along

Lake Druid. The transfer was negotiated by NPS Federal Lands to Parks staff. For more information, please contact Bill Huie, Federal Lands to Parks Program Manager, at bill_huie@nps.gov or 404- 562- 3175.

Key Trail Connection Fills the Gap



Carter County, TN (Summer 2006) – The National Park Foundation funded a Student Conservation Association trail crew of high school students to complete a mile- long segment of the Overmountain Victory NHT. The new section connects two segments into a six- mile contiguous pathway at Yellow Mountain Gap, where the Appalachian National Scenic Trail intersects with the Overmountain Victory NHT. The entire six- mile trail is now an official portion of the Overmountain Victory NHT preserving and commemorating the original historic route. The project was underwritten by funds from Nature Valley and coordinated on- site by staff from the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas. For more information, please contact Paul Carson, OVNHT Superintendent, at

paul_carson@nps.gov or 864- 936- 3477.

Five Hundred Volunteers Help Rebuild a New Orleans Neighborhood

New Orleans, LA (December 13, 2006) – A 500 member volunteer group, led by Groundwork New Orleans and the Timberland Company, assisted in the revitalization and rebuilding of New Orleans. They removed trash, painted murals, and built “rain gardens” in the Central City. The volunteer crew, including many young people, also assisted phytoremediation efforts in Central City by planting sunflowers and kale. (Phytoremediation is a process that uses plants to naturally remove harmful contaminants from the soil.)



The NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program provided organizational development assistance to Groundwork New Orleans, one of twelve Trusts in the Groundwork USA initiative working to improve the environment, economy, and quality of life for communities and the first in the Southeast Region. Timberland, makers of hiking apparel, granted employees paid time off to work on the project and provided nearly \$40,000 to the organization for equipment and supplies. For more information, please contact Stacye Palmer, NPS RTCA, at stacye_palmer@nps.gov or 504- 589- 3882 x140.

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Network Expands

Stafford County, VA (December 2006) - Based on an application by Stafford County, NPS Regional Director Joe Lawler recognized three locally managed trails as segments of the growing Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail network:

- ~ the Aquia Creek Water Trail, a connection to the Potomac River Water Trail (designated a National Recreation Trail in 2006);
- ~ a trail that explores Government Island, a 17 acre site where stone was quarried for the White House and the U.S. Capitol; and
- ~ the planned five- mile Falmouth- Ferry Farm Trail, which will connect three National Historic Landmarks in the Rappahannock River corridor.

All of the related sites contribute to an understanding of the national significance of the Trail corridor. For more information, see <http://www.gostaffordva.com/stafford-visitorguide.cfm> or contact Don Briggs, PHNST Office, at don_briggs@nps.gov or 304-535- 4016.

Seven- Mile Extension of Cardinal Greenway Extends the Benefits of the American Discovery Trail



Losantville, IN (December 14, 2006) - Lenette Freeman, Director of the Cardinal Greenway, announced the opening of seven new paved miles of the greenway, making the now 27- mile trail the longest paved trail in Indiana. In addition to the newly paved trail, horseback riders and hikers can also make use of an additional seven miles of new horse trail on the greenway. Once completed, the Cardinal Greenway will stretch over 60 miles, connecting

the cities of Richmond, Muncie, and Marion, IN.

Spearheaded by the nonprofit Cardinal Greenway, project partners include local government, regional planning agencies, and the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program. RTCA has supported the Cardinal Greenway by providing consultation on funding strategies, adjacent landowner concerns, trail design, and trail operation and construction. For more information, please contact Rory Robinson, NPS RTCA IN Projects Manager, at rory_robinson@nps.gov or 330- 657- 2951.

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